

HOUSE RESOLUTION 62

By Clemmons

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend World Relief  
Nashville for its meritorious service.

WHEREAS, it is the privilege of this General Assembly to recognize those venerable organizations that are devoted to serving vulnerable populations throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, one such organization is World Relief, an international humanitarian agency that operates in this State through its affiliate office in Nashville; in conjunction with area churches and volunteers, the Nashville affiliate of World Relief has enabled many displaced citizens from around the world to have a second chance at life in safe communities in Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, World Relief was established in 1944 by the National Association of Evangelicals in response to the humanitarian crisis in Europe after World War II; with offices in twenty-seven U.S. cities and fourteen countries, the organization partners with local churches to transform communities economically, socially, and spiritually so that those in need thrive and grow; and

WHEREAS, with a mission of empowering local churches to serve the most vulnerable populations, World Relief holds fast to Christian values, looking to Jesus as an example as they serve those suffering from poverty and injustice, regardless of color, belief, or gender, as part of God's plan to redeem, reconcile, and restore the world; and

WHEREAS, the organization has five areas of focus: disaster response, health and child development, refugee and immigration services, economic development, and peacebuilding; through each of these initiatives, World Relief strives to be a lifeline for the sick, widowed, orphaned, alienated, displaced, devastated, marginalized, and disenfranchised; and

WHEREAS, by the end of 2014, nearly sixty million people were forcibly displaced, with nearly a third—twenty million—living outside of their countries as refugees, constituting the greatest refugee crisis in history; these refugees are desperate for protection and are often surrounded by unfamiliar, sometimes unwelcoming, faces. In partnership with local churches, World Relief is committed to helping refugees from all countries resettle and rebuild their lives; and

WHEREAS, though the Nashville affiliate office was officially established in 1987, World Relief has been placing refugees in the Nashville area since the early 1980s; World Relief empowers volunteers and churches to help meet the physical, relational, and spiritual needs of these displaced individuals; and

WHEREAS, believing that the church is the primary agent of bringing peace, justice, and love to a broken world, World Relief Nashville follows best practices and standards in a manner that is sustainable to the community from a spiritual, social, and economic standpoint; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, World Relief Nashville helped resettle 505 individuals from fifteen countries, war-ravaged areas such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine, Rwanda, Syria, and the Congo; twenty-eight percent of those resettled were women, and forty-one percent were children under the age of eighteen; and

WHEREAS, for three decades, World Relief Nashville has been a compassionate force in this State, giving those victims of violence, injustice, poverty, and displacement renewed hope and an opportunity to establish a new life out of harm's way, and it is fitting that the organization be recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we recognize and commend World Relief Nashville for its goodwill efforts that have positively affected so many lives, extend our sincere appreciation for the benevolent works that the organization has accomplished in conjunction with volunteers and local churches, and wish the organization much continued success in all its future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.